

The

Rambler

... Hears It's
Back to Empire

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By GEORGE KENNEDY

Denis W. Brogan, professor of American political history at Cambridge University, is in town. A story in The Sunday Star said he was to be lecturer-in-residence at George Washington University for the next 10 days.

I located him at the Cosmos Club.

"Come over," he said. "I won't have to lecture until 4."

Not many years ago, when we first met at the National Press Club, his explanation of his professorial assignment was, "It's to tell what's going on in America. As my chair is endowed by the Rockefellers, you might call me the Esso professor."

He was born in Glasgow, and at that first meeting he tried to tell me that the Irish-born in Scotland were superior to the Irish-born in America. That was before the 1960 election.

He is colorful. His head is round. His poll is white. His eyes blue, and his cheeks cuddly enough to suggest the tricolor. He emphasizes that by wearing a red tie. Yesterday he wore a red shirt.

"I ARRIVED a few days ago," he said, "My vaccination had expired. They gave me another. It gave me a swollen arm, and a temperature. I've been recuperating in Richmond, Va."

"I was talking to Jefferson Davis. Couldn't be Jefferson Davis? Well, whoever it was he talked just like Jefferson Davis."

"The South is going to rise again. Not to reverse the Civil War. I mean the Northern aggression. That's what the Richmond Times-Dispatch called it the other day. They won that."

"It's the Revolution. They want to go behind that. They want to rejoin the Empire. Not the Commonwealth, the Empire."

"The Common Market?"

They're glad England has been kept out. No entangling alliances with the continent.

"Advance on Washington?"

They could take it if they wanted it. What's there to stop them? There's the 3d Infantry at Fort Myer, a mere regiment, not a division. Thirty-five thousand civilian employees of the Pentagon and 10,000 at CIA in Langley. Oh yes, and the Park Police.

"But I don't think they want to take Washington. They want to move the capital from Richmond to Williamsburg, restore the Colonial capital."

"In all recorded history, I'm aware of no instance where the flag of a rebellion put down less than a century before has been paraded about without dire consequences."

"You'd like to hear my lecture? Well come along."

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INDEED I DID WANT to hear him. This intelligence should cause even a greater stir than TFX.

We took a taxi to Lisner Auditorium. The lectern was set up in the lounge, a room downstairs from the entrance. A silver tea urn stood on a side table and plates of watercress sandwiches. Denis had tea with cream, no sugar.

About 30 students, male and female, and a half dozen faculty members were in attendance. Denis took the lectern and spoke of Tories and Whigs and Burke and Chatham, but said that it was not until the middle class were allowed to vote in the 1830s that political parties as we know them began in Britain.

What was not generally understood, he said, was that political parties here were older. By the time of Jackson, American political parties had settled all political questions except slavery.

I was waiting to hear him tell the students about the threat from the other side of the Potomac. I waited in vain. All he said was that one of the great achievements of American political parties was the restoration of the Union.

